



July 20, 2026

The Honorable Rand Paul, MD
United States Senate
295 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear Senator Paul:

The American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS) greatly appreciates that the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) voted to pass the Living Donor Protection Act (LDPA) (S. 1552) in February 2026. **We ask that this bill be advanced on the Senate floor as expeditiously as possible.**

ASTS, representing over 2,400 surgeons, physicians, and scientists, is dedicated to excellence in transplant surgery and advocates for comprehensive and innovative solutions to meet the needs of our patients. The LDPA is broadly supported by the entire transplant community – patients and their families, transplant providers, organ donor advocacy organizations, and even the limited set of insurers impacted by the bill (notably the American Council of Life Insurers) – and earned a majority of Senate co-sponsors.

This Congress, ACLI's president and Chief Executive Officer said: "Life insurers support helping more people access financial protection for themselves and their families. The Living Donor Protection Act lets organ donors access life, disability, or long-term care coverage while recognizing fair underwriting practices. It's an important initiative that will protect those who save lives through organ donations." We understand that industry allies have asked you to support the bill.

Refined through multiple Congresses, this bill is a carefully crafted consensus with all stakeholders. It deliberately balances two critically important perspectives: reducing well-documented and peer-reviewed studies of barriers to increased organ donation – in living donor's employment and insurance – with protecting the insurance industry's ability to provide coverage.

The bill ensures that life, disability, and long-term care insurers do not limit coverage or payment for individuals who are living donors based solely on a person's status as a living donor, absent any specific insurance risk. Further, the LDPA codifies the 2018 decision by the U.S. Department of Labor that already allows FMLA to protect living donors who qualify for FMLA benefits without imposing any undue burdens on insurers or disrupting existing coverage. The bill received a \$0 preliminary score from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) in 2024 and has not been modified.

Over 90,000 patients are waiting for lifesaving kidney transplants including **nearly 9,000 people in Kentucky alone**¹. As a physician, you know that living donation offers patients the ability to bypass the deceased donor waiting list, which can

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stretch five years or longer, giving them their best chance for long-term health and survival. Almost 25 percent of living donors report experiencing barriers in access to life, disability, or long-term care insurance following donation, and 96 percent of living kidney donors report some form of financial hardship.ⁱⁱ

The LDPA will make a real difference in so many people's lives, without upending the insurance industry. After many years of advocacy and negotiation, transplant physicians, other providers, and patients reached an important agreement with the industry. **To best serve the interests of living donors and their families in your state and across the nation, we ask that you honor and advance that agreement by supporting passage of the LDPA on the Senate floor.**

If you have any questions on this critical piece of legislation, please contact ASTS Director, Advocacy & Professional Practices, Emily Besser at Emily.Besser@asts.org.

Sincerely,



Henry B. Randall, MD, MBA

ⁱ <https://www.hrsa.gov/net/optn?base=insights&path=/OPTN-metrics/>. Accessed July 13, 2026.

ⁱⁱ Boyarsky, B. J., Massie, A. B., Alejo, J. L., Van Arendonk, K. J., Wildonger, S., Garonzik-Wang, J. M., Montgomery, R. A., Deshpande, N. A., Muzaale, A. D., & Segev, D. L. (2014). Experiences obtaining insurance after live kidney donation. *American Journal of Transplantation*, 14, 2168-2172. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajt.12819>